Without Faith

Heb.11:6 And without Faith it is impossible to please Him.

Our text taken from the famous chapter in Hebrews on Faith, the 11th, and the 6th verse. Read.

The paragraph from which we take ourtext opens with that sublime statement-Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen."

Some people do not understand this statement, but it is very plain. For example, faith in Christ converts the things we hope for into realities, and the things we cannot see into substantial realities. You may hope that there is a God yet not feel certain about it. But when you accept Christ by faith you know within your soul that God isa blessed reality. Spiritual things you cannot see, but when you accept Christ bu faith you have the proof og their reality in your heart. Faith in Christ introduces you to a new world because it makes you over into a new creature

The Bible may rightly be called a book of Faith. All the way thru it emphasizes faith.

"And Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness."

Job commended for his brave statement:"Yea, tho he slay me, yet will I trust him".

The Psalms over and over again exhort to trust in God.

The words of Jesus: Repent ye and believe the gospe for the kingdom of God is at hand.

"Whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life.

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, also believe in me.

How often did Jesus commend those who had faith in him

We are all familiar with Paul's "The just shall live by faith.

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God thru our Lord Jesus Christ"

The Bible never emphasizes trifles, but the great fundamentals of life. Faith, then, is essential to Xn experience.

Faith needs no definition. But perhaps the best is a personal trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. A child

2. knows what tmust is. How naturally it trusts mother and father. But how a child shys away from a stranger until ~~it~~ the stranger proves himself to be t trustworthy.

Faith is the simplest amd most child-like act of the soul. Trusting Jesus, that is all. But to a true Xn, it is everything.

A lot of people have mistaken notions about Xn Faith. Some think it is blind credulity, assuciated with ignorance and superstition. They declare that if Xns were better educated and exercised their intelligen they would no longer believe the Bible as the Word of Go and Christ as the Savior of mankind. If we studied science and philosophy we would become too enlightened to cling to the doctrines of the Xn religion.

In no part of the world are Xn people as a clas found to be ignorant and gullable. Every speaker who has addressed Xn audiences knows that he has to be very careful what he says and how he says it. Every minister is criticized severely, not only for the doctrines he preaches and the truth he speaks, but for the very language he uses. An audience of Xns is a discriminati~~o~~ng audience.

And this very thing the Bible urges us to become. Christ says, "Take heed how ye hear", and, "Take heed wha ye hear". And again, "Beware of false prophets for they come to you in sheeps clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

Paul declared, "Prove all things, hold fast that wh which is good."

And John, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God".

Contrary to the opinions of these people who call Xns ignorant, the Bible urges us to investigate and prov before we believe and follow.

All we have to do is to ask ourselves the ?, "Who established our schools and colleges, believers or infidels?

Also, all our Xn colleges give complete courses in the liberal arts, the sciences, and in the various branche s f literature, history, language, philosophy, psychology and all the rest.

Who are likely to be weel-informed- the people who have the colleges or those who have none?

To come back from our diversion to the text, And without Faith it is impossible to please God, why should faith on our part be pleasing to God our Heavenly Father?

Is it not just because God is our Heavenly Father and consequently likes to be trusted? We like to be trusted. What mother would not be heart-broken to have her child lose all confidence in her? Then why should we not conclude that our Heavenly Father is grieved when we dustrust Him and disobey His will?, but that He is made glad when we exercise torward Him the same clild-like confidence we show torward our parents?

Again, why should not the One who made us be pleased when He sees within us a right spirit and attitude? The Bible says, "He that formed the eye, shall He not see? And He that formed the ear, shall He not hear? And so He that created the human mind, does he not know the mind and does He not feel an interest in its condition? It is most reasonable to comclude that when the All-Seeing One looks within our hearts and sees there a strong trust in Him and an abiding faith becauuse we love him and desi desire to please Him God is indeed pleased with us. ~~The Creative Psychologist understands better than we do~~ our hearts and minds and souls.

God is also pleased because of our faith since faith gives balance to our reason and makes of us builderrs and doers, worth-while and worthy children of heaven.

God wants us to exercise our reason but we cannot reason everything out in life. The pure rationalist is a pitiable sight. In accepting only what he can reason out he is forced to rejext Life's greatest blessings.
The child on the beach trying to pick up the ocean with a spoon.

We cannot love for long without trust. Distrust soon breaks up the home, soon separates husband and wife. Nor can we love God without trusting Him. God is pleased when we trust Him because then He knows that we can love him, and that is just what God wants, He wants us to love Him.

And finally, God is pleased when we trust Him thru His Son Jesus Christ, because of the change which comes within us. We are made into new creatures. Our lives and characters are transfugured into a purer and nobler

4. state.

The transigured lives of Xns!

From Saul to Paul.

Justin Martyr, the philospher who found no peace in his philosophies, but who when he found X, found more than peace.

St. Augustine, the great theologian, transformed from a dissolute man into a moral, upright clean creature.

Martin Luther, unhappy with all his pennances and holy performances, until the understanding of Faith came to him.

The long list of heroes of Faith which time will not permit to be read.
Including, John Newton, John Bunyon, John Wesley, Spurgeon, Baxter, Jerry McAuley, Phillips Brooks, Dwight L. Moody.

Such transformations were made thru Faith. You nev never heard of Doubt transforming any man into something higher and nobler and better. Doubt kills and destroys; Faith makes alive and builds. Doubt takes away and starves to death, Faith adds to, strengthens, causes to grow mighty.

"Oh, for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by every foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe.

That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chastening rod,
But in the hour of grief and pain
Will lean upon its God.

A faith that keeps the narrow way
Till life's last hour is fled,
And witha pure and heavenly ray
Lights up a dying bed.

Lord, give us such a faith as this,
And then, whate'er may come,
We'll taste, e'en here, the hallowed bliss
Of our eternal home."